Historic, archived document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

Foreign Crops and MARKETS

VOLUME 51 NUMBER 12

LIBRARY
CURRENT SERIAL RECORD
☆ OCT 29 1945 ☆
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

SEPTEMBER 17, 1945

IN THIS ISSUE

Page

GRAINS, GRAIN PRODUCTS, AND FEEDS
Brazil Suspends Wheat Import Duties .. 157
Ecuadoran Rice Output Smaller Than 1944 Record Crop 158
Transportation Shortage Restricts Brazilian Rice Shipments 159

FATS AND OILS
Bahia Castor Bean Crop Lacks Adequate Transport 159

COTTON AND OTHER FIBERS
Venezuelan Cotton Crop Unchanged 159
Weekly Cotton Prices on Foreign Markets 160
Indian Jute Acreage Increases 161

TOBACCO
Europe Resumes Tobacco Purchases From Dominican Republic 162

FRUITS, VEGETABLES, AND NUTS
Mexican Pineapple Production Increases 163

LIVESTOCK AND ANIMAL PRODUCTS
World Cattle Numbers in 1945 141
World Sheep Numbers Continue Downward Trend 149

MISCELLANEOUS
Late News 140
Canada Restricts Food Consumption to Feed Britain and Liberated Areas 163

Issued by the OFFICE OF FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL RELATIONS
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, WASHINGTON, D.C.

LATE NEWS

Argentina's third official estimate places the 1944-45 peanut crop at 348,878,000 pounds, as compared with 438,495,000, the corresponding figure for last year. Drought which caused a 20 percent loss in the largest shown acreage on record was responsible for the reduced production. The present crop, however, is 51.3 percent larger than the average for the 5 preceding years.

The Danish Government has earmarked $1,250,000 for the purchase of 2,205,000 pounds of tobacco from the United States.

New Zealand's total butter fat production between August 1, 1944, and June 30, 1945, amounted to approximately 158,000 long tons, compared with 138,000 tons during the corresponding 11 months of 1943-44, an increase of 12.9 percent. This estimate is based on returns from dairy factories covering approximately 95 percent of the total butterfat production of the Dominion.

Danish livestock numbers, according to the July census, were as follows (corresponding figures for July 1944 shown in parentheses): Horses 645,000 (639,000); cattle 3,231,000 (3,188,000); hogs 1,658,000 (2,084,000); and chickens on farms 16,336,000 (16,836,000).

The full effects of the drought in Greece on grain production became apparent as threshing neared completion. In many localities the crop is only sufficient for 2 months' consumption after seed requirement are set aside. In fact, a shortage of seed wheat for fall planting constitutes a serious problem. Increased wheat imports will be required if the existing ration scale is to be maintained. The corn crop suffered particularly from the drought. Vineyards and citrus fruits also were adversely affected, although not to the same extent as the grain crops.

Requisitioning of wheat by the Chilean Government is being considered by the Ministry of Agriculture in order to offset the shortage now confronting flour millers in that country. The shortage is attributed to hoarding. The Chilean Institute of Agricultural Economy has authorized the importation of 2,000 tons of hard wheat from Argentina to help in meeting the current shortage.

WORLD CATTLE NUMBERS IN 1945 1/

World cattle numbers totaled about 711 million head at the beginning of 1945. This preliminary estimate indicates only a slight decline from a year earlier and is 2 percent less than the 1936-1940 average of 723 million head. Cattle numbers in Europe dropped approximately 5 percent from 1944 to 1945, thus continuing the downward trend that took place earlier during the war. Reductions in Asia have also occurred, with the percentage decreases greatest in the Philippines and Burma. Elsewhere in the world nominal declines in cattle numbers in some countries have been offset by slight gains in others.

Prospects in 1945 point to a further reduction in world cattle numbers. The principal factors indicating a decline are (1) losses since January in central and eastern Europe incident to military operations and to the ending of the war in Europe, (2) less favorable supplies of feed, and (3) less assurance of favorable economic conditions 2 or 3 years hence.

On the other hand, in the important dairy cattle countries in northwestern Europe where wartime reductions were greatest, cattle numbers are likely to increase during the current year. Retention of young stock and the better breeding cows, together with a favorable ratio between remaining cattle numbers and pastures, will help in restoration of herds. Government encouragement is being given in a number of countries to building up herds and retaining animals to heavier weights. Aside from western European countries, appreciable current increases are likely only in the United Kingdom and the Soviet Union.

The reductions that have occurred in world cattle numbers in recent years were largely caused by the war, either because of direct war damage and requisitioning by invading armies, or as a result of losses of domestic or imported feed supplies. While severe in some countries or parts of countries, these reductions from a world standpoint are relatively minor and in occupied areas have not been nearly as heavy as in the case of hogs and poultry, which depended much more upon grain supplies. In fact, present world cattle numbers of 711 million head, compare even more favorably with earlier prewar averages of 687 and 695 million head for the periods 1926-1930 and 1931-1935 than with the more recent 1936-1940 period.

In Europe cattle numbers at the beginning of 1945 were nearly 14 percent smaller than the peak numbers immediately before the war, although only about 6 percent less than prewar level in 1913, which level

CATTLE: Number in specified countries, averages 1931-35 and 1936-40, annual 1939-1945

Continent and Country	Month of estimate 1/	Average		1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944 2/	1945 2/
		1931-35	1936-40							
		Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands
North America										
United States	Jan. 1	68,465	66,684	66,029	68,197	71,461	75,162	79,114	82,364	81,760
Canada	Dec. 1 1/	3/ 8,250	8,246	8,091	8,224	8,316	8,249	8,834	9,506	10,258
Mexico	June	4/ 10,083	3/ 11,722	-	11,603	-	-	-	7/ 12,000	-
Guatemala	July	409	520	510	605	612	630	729	657	-
Honduras, Republic of	July	611	524	485	560	-	645	-	500	-
El Salvador	July	520	680	697	705	716	743	-	-	-
Nicaragua		4/ 800	4/ 700	-	700	-	-	-	800	-
Cuba	Dec. 31 1/	4,340	5,024	5,559	4,900	5,335	-	4,897	(4,000)	3,778
Estimated total 5/		96,000	96,600	96,200	98,100	-	-	-	113,100	113,000
Europe										
United Kingdom	June	8,462	8,798	8,872	9,093	8,940	9,075	9,259	9,499	(9,515)
Eire (Ireland)	June	4,059	4,021	4,057	4,023	4,151	4,084	4,136	4,246	(4,380)
Norway	June 20	1,323	1,390	1,455	-	-	(1,280)	(1,250)	(1,280)	(1,270)
Sweden	Summer	3,025	2,959	2,975	(2,870)	2,759	2,546	2,790	2,834	(2,840)
Denmark	Dec. 31 1/	4/ 2,997	3,108	3,150	3,186	2,976	2,833	2,760	2,933	3,036
Netherlands	May	3/ 2,734	2,693	2,817	2,690	2,659	2,441	2,058	(2,035)	(1,950)
Belgium	Dec. 31 1/	1,793	1,724	1,690	1,600	6/ 1,828	6/ 1,759	6/ 1,407	6/ 1,392	6/ 1,440
Luxemburg	Dec. 1 1/	101	3/ 108	-	107	-	-	121	129	(105)
France	Fall 1/	15,616	15,504	15,622	14,662	6/ 14,857	6/ 15,991	6/ 16,282	6/ 14,997	6/7/ 13,830
Spain	Dec. 31 1/	3/ 4,011	4/ 3,739	-	3,739	3,899	3,900	(3,950)	4,152	(4,100)
Portugal 8/	Dec. 31 1/	4/ 905	4/ 905	-	-	973	(960)	(1,040)	(1,090)	(1,070)
Switzerland	April	1,636	1,663	1,711	1,695	1,584	1,493	1,517	1,497	1,461
Italy	March	4/ 7,090	7,571	7,879	7,790	9/	9/	(8,000)	(6,500)	(6,100)
Germany	Dec. 1 1/	19,134	19,881	19,934	19,943	19,668	19,432	19,102	19,598	(19,300)
Austria	Dec. 3 1/	4/10/ 2,349	3/ 2,578	2,596	2,560	-	-	-	2,530	(2,500)
Czechoslovakia 11/	Dec. 31 1/	4,392	(4,820)	(5,300)	(5,000)	-	(4,800)	(4,600)	(4,600)	(4,400)
Poland	June 30	9,450	(9,965)	-	-	-	(7,000)	(6,800)	(6,600)	(5,500)
Southeastern Europe 11/12/	Jan. 1	13,205	(13,650)	(14,000)	(13,300)	(12,700)	(12,100)	(11,100)	(10,100)	(8,800)
Lithuania	Dec. 31 1/	1,109	1,188	1,193	1,240	-	-	(940)	-	-
Latvia	June	1,172	(1,243)	1,272	-	-	(1,100)	(1,000)	-	-
Estonia	June	689	(647)	706	-	444	10/ 466	-	1/ 461	1/ (350)
Finland	September	1,792	1,893	1,938	1,770	10/ 1,590	10/ 1,488	10/ 1,721	10/ 1,859	10/ 1,673
Estimated total 5/		107,100	110,100	112,300	107,400	105,900	104,200	102,300	100,300	95,500
Soviet Union	Winter	3/ 36,900	3/ 48,500	-	7/ 49,500	-	-	-	-	-
Asia										
Turkey 11/13/	Dec. 31 1/	5,584	7,177	7,853	8,215	8,463	8,673	8,278	7,821	(8,000)
Iran	March	2,167	2,797	-	-	7/ 2,000	1,960	-	-	-
India 11/	Dec. 31 1/	198,474	3/ 205,911	-	208,231	-	-	-	-	-
Burma 11/	Dec. 31 1/	6,226	6,183	6,215	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ceylon 11/	Dec. 31 1/	1,617	1,618	1,670	1,628	1,693	1,760	-	-	-
China and dependencies 14/		3/ 25,000	(24,000)	(23,000)	(22,000)	-	-	-	(21,000)	(21,000)
Japan	Dec. 31 1/	1,543	1,794	1,894	1,967	7/ 2,096	-	-	-	-
Taiwan(Formosa) 11/	Dec. 31 1/	384	354	325	325	7/ 300	-	-	-	
Thailand 11/	March	10,047	11,017	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Philippine Islands 11/	Dec. 31 1/	3,493	4,000	4,330	-	-	-	-	-	7/ 1,900
Netherlands Indies 11/	Dec. 31 1/	8,084	7,672	7,663	7,824	-	-	-	-	-
Estimated total 5/15/		272,400	283,000	286,000	285,200	-	-	-	270,800	270,200

Africa										
Morocco 13/	Dec. 31 1/	1,994	1,973	1,912	1,871	2,048	2,381	2,675	2,749	(2,500)
Algeria	Mar. 1	879	837	886	829	843	911	7/ 900	(890)	(850)
Tunisia	Dec. 31 1/	523	494	502	479	487	510	553	(525)	(500)
Egypt 11/	March	16/ 1,768	3/ 2,021	2,196	-	-	1,903	17/ 2,203	(2,100)	(2,100)
Anglo-Egyptian Sudan		1,790	3/ 2,700	2,700	-	-	7/ 3,000	-	-	-
Kenya	July	5,209	5,239	-	-	-	7/ 5,245	-	-	-
Union of South Africa	August	10,497	11,636	12,060	12,000	-	-	13,068	(13,100)	(13,000)
Rhodesia, Southern	Dec. 31 1/	2,616	2,344	2,296	-	-	-	-	(2,650)	(2,700)
Tanganyika	Dec. 31 1/	5,182	5,000	5,125	5,209	-	-	-	7/ 6,000	-
Mozambique		529	552	547	577	563	527	-	-	-
Madagascar 13/	Dec. 31 1/	6,380	5,172	5,200	5,266	5,457	5,640	5,934	5,957	(6,000)
Estimated total 5/		60,300	61,100	62,300	62,400	-	-	-	69,900	69,400
South America										
Colombia	Dec. 31 1/	3/ 7,730	3/ 8,010	8,112	-	-	9,325	10,934	11,456	12,334
Ecuador		3/ 1,370	3/ 1,300	-	-	1,185	1,160	1,120	1,200	(1,200)
Bolivia	Dec. 31 1/	3/ 2,064	3/ 1,921	1,842	7/ 2,000	-	-	2,445	(2,400)	(2,400)
Chile	June	3/ 2,426	2,489	2,356	2,421	2,418	2,346	2,391	2,306	7/ 2,400
Brazil	September	3/ 44,003	3/ 40,807	40,745	41,546	-	7/ 46,000	7/ 42,500	(42,000)	(42,000)
Uruguay	April	3/ 7,372	4/ 8,297	-	-	-	7/ 7,300	6,256	(6,300)	(6,300)
Paraguay	Dec. 31 1/	3,383	3,259	-	3,507	-	3,850	3,303	(3,300)	(3,300)
Argentina	July	3/ 31,540	3/ 33,762	-	-	16/ 33,750	16/ 31,460	-	(31,500)	(32,000)
Estimated total 5/		104,900	105,600	106,500	107,700	-	-	-	106,900	108,400
Oceania										
Australia	Dec. 31 1/	12,865	13,285	12,862	13,080	13,256	10/ 13,561	10/ 14,005	10/ 14,142	10/(13,500)
New Zealand	Jan. 31	4,188	4,449	4,565	4,533	4,576	4,642	4,485	4,476	4,500
Estimated total 5/		17,300	18,000	17,600	17,900	-	-	-	18,900	18,300
Estimated world total 5/		694,900	723,000	731,900	728,100	-	-	-	712,900	710,800

Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations. Compiled from official sources and publications of the International Institute of Agriculture, except figures in parentheses, which are office estimates.

1/ End of year estimates (October to December) included under following year for comparisons and totals. Thus for Canada the December 1, 1938 estimate of 8,091,000 is shown under 1939. 2/ Preliminary. 3/ Average for 2 to 4 years only. 4/ Census or estimate for single year. 5/ Totals include estimates for countries for which official statistics are unavailable. 6/ Official wartime statistics not strictly comparable with estimates for earlier years. 7/ Unofficial estimate. 8/ Continental Portugal, Madeira and Azores. 9/ Censuses for June 30, 1941 and July 20, 1942 reported 8,488,000 and 8,372,000, respectively, but are not comparable with March estimates for other years. 10/ March. 11/ Data include buffaloes. 12/ Total within pre-war boundaries of Hungary, Yugoslavia, Greece, Albania, Bulgaria and Rumania. 13/ Data include only number taxed. 14/ Free and occupied China, including Turkestan, Manchuria and Inner Mongolia. 15/ Includes estimate for Outer Mongolia, which became available recently. 16/ September. 17/ June.

had been reestablished by 1928. While a substantial wartime decline has occurred in the Soviet Union, cattle numbers are not smaller than the low levels of 1931-1935. In North America, cattle numbers are well above the average of the 10-year (1931-1940) period. In other areas of the world cattle numbers also are not believed to be less than the 10-year (1931-1940) average despite some falling off in the Southern Hemisphere from the relative high levels of 1942 and 1943.

During the war period the world cattle herds have been subject to factors that tended to alter the proportions of use types and of various age groupings. Because of greater emphasis placed upon milk and dairy products, there has been a tendency to use available feed supplies proportionately more for feeding cows to produce milk than for finishing animals for market, especially in Europe. Similarly, in those parts of the world where cattle are customarily used for draft power, such work stock has been more carefully husbanded than other animals, because of the necessity for increasing local food-crop production.

In those countries or areas, notably in Europe, where a substantial part of the cattle population had been normally maintained on imports of grain and protein concentrates, the reduction enforced by the wartime interruption in such imports fell most heavily upon older stock. Wartime requirements for meat provided a ready outlet for culls and the older animals. In some areas of the Southern Hemisphere, drought conditions at intervals also resulted in reductions through culling out the older animals in herds. On the other hand, where pasture conditions permitted, the rate of marketing was reduced in anticipation of higher future prices.

Still another deviation from normal conditions during the war period was the drop in average slaughter weights, reflecting the decrease in feed supplies.

NORTH AMERICA: Cattle numbers in North America on January 1 of this year remained near the record level of about 113 million head established a year earlier. The small decline in the United States and Cuba of 0.8 million head was nearly offset by an increase in Canada, while numbers in Mexico are believed to have remained at about 12 million head. The strong demand for meat and better-than-average feed and pasture conditions, which caused a sharp expansion in cattle numbers in the United States and Canada from the low levels of 1938, continued into 1945.

The increase in cattle numbers in the United States since 1938 was about equal to that which took place from 1928 to 1934. Even with the heavy cow and calf slaughter that got underway in 1944 and continued into

1945, the reduction in total numbers has been slight. Considering all factors, any readjustment to lower levels in the United States and Canada is expected to be gradual as long as favorable feed and pasture conditions prevail, and will be spread over a number of years. The decline in numbers, therefore, will be moderate during 1945.

Pasture conditions in Mexico and especially in Cuba were unfavorable for the cattle industry in 1944. This factor, together with the strong demand for meat, caused a decline of approximately one-fourth in cattle numbers between 1943 and the beginning of 1945 in Cuba.

EUROPE: Cattle numbers in Europe at the beginning of 1945 are estimated to have been 5 percent smaller than the numbers of a year earlier and 13 percent less than the 1936-1940 average of 110.1 million head. Reductions in 1944 occurred principally in areas fought over during the year, especially in northern France, in Italy and countries of eastern Europe. The reductions last year were mainly the result of military operations and plundering, whereas, the decline in earlier war years was more a matter of reducing herds to smaller feed supplies. This decline was especially true in northwestern areas where reduced feed imports compelled a reduction in herds.

Important also to the cattle industry of Europe has been the decrease in milk and meat output of remaining cattle. Reductions in the supplies of grain and protein feeds have sharply lowered the output of milk per cow and also in the weight of animals for slaughter. Even so, this reduction in cattle numbers and in the output of remaining herds has not as in the case of sheep, been as great as in the case of hogs and poultry. In the case of hogs the decline in numbers was about 32 percent, and there also was an appreciable lowering of slaughter weights. In poultry numbers and egg production the decline was still more drastic. Cattle can be maintained on pastures, root crops, and roughage much more easily than hogs and poultry, which require appreciable quantities of grain.

In relation to the changes in World War I, however, the reductions in cattle numbers in World War II were larger, both proportionately and in actual numbers. In the earlier war, cattle numbers dropped from about 103.3 million head in 1913 to 93.9 million in 1919, or about 10 percent. Cattle numbers in Europe had climbed to an average of 110.1 million head for the 5-year (1936-1940) period, but dropped back 13 percent to 95.5 million head at the beginning of 1945.

Cattle in the United Kingdom have gradually increased in number during the war, and this upward trend continued into 1945. At the present time, cattle numbers are 8 percent larger than in 1936-1940. Considerable emphasis was placed upon the maintenance of milk production, especially for fluid consumption, with the expansion taking place largely in dairy cattle. The increase was limited by the restricted imports of feeds, but supplies have been somewhat enlarged in 1945. Further expansion of dairy cattle numbers, however, will encounter increased resistance among traditional beef-cattle breeders, and the pressure of world supplies of manufactured dairy products will tend to hold British dairy herds to the level required for fluid milk supplies.

The demand in the United Kingdom for meat and store cattle has caused the cattle industry in Eire to prosper during the war, and cattle numbers have been climbing. Numbers in 1945 are estimated at 9 percent above 1936-1940 levels.

As prospects in much of continental Europe continue unfavorable in 1945, a further decline in numbers there appears certain. In addition to military operations during the first half of 1945, other unfavorable factors are (1) continued feed shortage, (2) hastily devised land tenure reforms, (3) drought conditions in much of southern Europe, and (4) critical meat needs that will delay restoration and may require further reduction in herds. On the other hand, inflation threats and scarcity of goods for purchase may tend to cause farmers to retain their stock.

In several countries farmers are being encouraged by the government to build up their herds and retain cattle to heavier weights. Sweden adopted a new subsidy program for producers of meat animals. This program, effective from August 25, 1945, is expected to increase meat production within 2 years. In Norway, the Government is absorbing transportation costs on meat animals produced by farmers located far from market centers. Current livestock marketings in Belgium are being held to a minimum in order to build up animal weights and numbers. Slaughtering is also being discouraged in Yugoslavia in an effort to replenish livestock herds.

Aside from wartime changes in cattle numbers of Europe, the most threatening factor has been the widespread drought conditions extending from Portugal to Bulgaria and northward to northern France and Austria. Feed supplies and pastures in relation to livestock numbers are especially short in Portugal, southern Italy, and Bulgaria. In Switzerland, deliveries and slaughter of livestock have greatly increased due to short pastures in recent months. Similar conditions have been anticipated in parts of France.

For central and eastern Europe the present estimates for 1945 do not fully reflect the drastic changes that occurred during the past winter and spring. Since the first of the year, further heavy losses have been reported from Rumania, Bulgaria, Hungary, and parts of Yugoslavia and Poland. In central Europe losses since January are being reported in Germany, Austria, and Czechoslovakia. The loss of cattle in Germany by now may have reached 10 percent, with further reduction likely. Losses in Austria may also be appreciable. In Czechoslovakia, some losses took place because of withdrawals by the retreating German forces and because of requisitions by the liberating Russian armies.

SOVIET UNION: With Russian territory mostly freed of invading Germans by the beginning of 1944 and with favorable weather and pasture conditions cattle numbers in the Soviet Union at the start of 1945 are believed to have increased over a year earlier. Part of the increase was obtained at the expense of regions in eastern Europe taken from the Germans. The estimated increase in cattle last year would bring numbers up to about the low level that prevailed from 1931 to 1935, but this level would still be from one-fourth to one-third less than the number at the beginning of the war.

The redistribution of cattle in the Soviet Union has been of equal or greater importance than the slight increase in numbers during 1945. Governmental programs of returning cattle to previously occupied areas have been carried out on a large scale. Large droves of cattle, for the most part young heifers, were driven westward as areas were liberated from the retreating German forces.

ASIA: Definite information is especially lacking on the trend of livestock numbers in Asia. Preliminary reports from the Philippines indicate a reduction of 62 percent in cattle numbers from 1939 to 1945. This reduction is probably the greatest of any territory occupied by the Japanese. In Burma, a decline of at least 20 percent is believed to have occurred during Japanese occupation. Because of the dependency upon cattle for work stock in China numbers have been better maintained, and the overall reduction in cattle is something like 15 percent since 1937, with little change occurring in the past year.

Japan is a country of relatively few cattle, and numbers have not been reduced materially during the war. India, with about 200 million head, has more cattle than any other country, but only about 15 to 20 percent of them are used for milk or meat production or as draft animals. Little information is available on the trend in numbers.

AFRICA: In French North Africa, severe drought conditions that prevailed in much of 1944 and extended into 1945 have caused a reduction in cattle numbers. Losses have been heaviest in Morocco. The extent of losses in all three countries is not fully known, but almost complete failure of grain crops on unirrigated land, together with dried-up pastures, made it difficult for cattle to survive. Elsewhere in Africa cattle numbers have remained about the same as in recent years, with some upward tendency in Southern Rhodesia and Madagascar. A strong demand for meat in the Union of South Africa has held herds at about the level prevailing a year ago.

SOUTH AMERICA: Unfavorable weather for pastures tended to hold in check any tendency toward expansion in the principal cattle areas of South America, and 1945 numbers are little changed from a year ago. Current cattle numbers in Argentina, however, are believed to be slightly above a year ago, primarily because slaughter in the first half of 1945 was considerably less than that for the same period a year earlier. In central Brazil unfavorable prices to feeders for fat cattle, and in turn low prices paid for feeder cattle have tended to retard marketings, and appreciable numbers may have accumulated in the interior. In southern Brazil summer pastures in 1944-45 were unfavorable, and many light cattle were marketed.

Cattle numbers apparently continue to increase in Colombia. Strong demands for both meat and live cattle has created considerable interest in this industry in the past year. In Venezuela, little statistical information on cattle is available. As a result of higher purchasing power the demand for animal products has increased, and the Venezuelan Government has embarked upon a livestock improvement program and in general is encouraging the cattle industry.

OCEANIA: Rains by mid-1945 in nearly all pasture areas of Australia relieved widespread drought conditions that existed for nearly 2 years. Although feed supplies and pastures were practically exhausted, there was little actual liquidation of cattle herds. Based on only partial returns for the early 1945 census, cattle numbers in Australia are estimated at 13.5 million head, a decline of 5 percent from the previous year. Little or no increase in numbers is expected in 1945, but the milk output per cow and slaughter weights should show some improvement as a result of improved pastures.

In New Zealand, especially favorable pastures in the past season, together with some pick-up in the supply of labor and fertilizers, have brought an increase in cattle numbers and in output per animal. As January census material is not yet available the extent of increase in numbers is not definite, however. Continued favorable conditions point toward an additional improvement during 1945.

1/ This is one of a series of regularly scheduled reports on world agricultural prospects approved by the OFAR Committee on Foreign Crop and Livestock Statistics. For this report the Committee was composed of Joseph A. Becker, chairman, C. M. Purves, A. T. Thompson, Floyd E. Davis, Esther H. Johnson, Hazel Kefauver, F. S. Straus and Oscar K. Moore.

WORLD SHEEP NUMBERS CONTINUE DOWNWARD TREND 1/

World sheep numbers in 1945 are placed at 718 million head, or 8 percent less than the wartime peak reached in 1942, and 5 percent less than the average for the 5-year (1936-1940) period. The 1942 peak resulted from expansions in sheep numbers in the United States, Canada, and principal surplus producing countries of the Southern Hemisphere in response to much higher prices and the urgent demand of the Allied countries for meat and wool.

Since 1942, however, rising costs of production, large accumulations of wool on hand, and severe drought in Australia, the Union of South Africa, and some parts of Argentina have resulted in a material decline in sheep numbers for these countries. The greatest decreases have been in the United States, Australia, the Union of South Africa, and Uruguay.

In Europe, sheep numbers have declined during the war years, both in the United Kingdom and in continental Europe as a whole. However, reduction in sheep, as with cattle, has been much less than in hogs and poultry. Sheep can exist on otherwise unproductive land and are not dependent on imported feedstuffs as are other domestic animals, particularly, in northwestern Europe. Also, sheep raising was encouraged in continental Europe by the Axis because of the great scarcity of wool. The Allied blockade was successful in cutting off access to supplies of wool from the Southern Hemisphere, where approximately 55 percent of normal total prewar requirement was obtained. Nevertheless, total sheep numbers in continental Europe, declined despite Axis efforts at control.

The Soviet Union, China, and India all have relatively large numbers of sheep. Estimates from different sources vary considerably, but such figures as are available indicate that numbers in India are now above the average for years 1936-1940, but the numbers in the Soviet Union are smaller. While there has been a substantial decrease in Free China since prewar, this decrease is believed to have been offset by an increase in occupied China and in the outlying dependencies.

DISTRIBUTION BY CONTINENTS: Due to wartime factors, the distribution of sheep numbers by continents has changed since 1936-1940. On the basis of rough estimates, the continent of Asia appears to have forged ahead of Oceania. The latter includes the important wool producing countries of Australia and New Zealand. South America ranks third, followed in order by Europe, Africa, and North America. The United States, however, is included among the 5 largest producing countries of the world.

SHEEP: Number in specified countries, averages 1931-1935 and 1936-1940, annual 1939-1945

Continent and Country	Month of estimate 1/	Average 1931-35	Average 1936-40	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944 2/	1945 2/
		Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands
North America										
United States	Jan. 1	53,100	51.462	51,595	52,399	54,283	56,735	55,775	51,769	47,945
Canada	Dec. 1 1/	3/ 2,762	2,651	2,672	2,653	2,689	2.254	2,483	2,733	2,822
Mexico	June	4/ 3,764	3/ 4,784	-	4,401	-	(4,800)	-	-	(5,000)
Guatemala	July	174	273	281	378	383	435	438	368	(300)
Estimated total 5/		60,200	59,700	-	-	-	64.900	-	60,500	56,600
Europe										
Iceland	Spring	696	624	594	628	637	-	600	610	-
United Kingdom	June	26,047	26,112	26,887	26,319	22,257	21,506	20,383	20.108	20,900
Eire (Ireland)	June	3,283	3,076	3,048	3,071	2,909	2,693	2,560	2,663	6/ 2,700
Norway	June 20	1,725	1,750	1,744	-	-	(1,700)	(1.690)	(1,800)	(1,780)
Sweden	Summer	542	398	373	(375)	411	435	520	552	6/ 550
Denmark	July 15	3/ 175	3/ 165	143	-	143	182	180	195	(200)
Netherlands	May	3/ 661	636	690	574	508	574	451	(400)	(300)
Belgium	Dec. 31 1/	4/ 187	4/ 187	-	-	7/ 153	7/ 186	7/ 216	7/ 213	7/ 199
France	Fall 1/	9,812	9,648	9,872	9,027	7/ 7,775	7/ 7,850	7/ 7,171	7/ 6,715	7/ 6,316
Spain	Dec. 31 1/	3/ 17,948	(19,000)	-	(20,000)	24,237	23,000	-	23,500	(22,000)
Portugal 8/	Dec. 31 1/	3/ 3,274	3/ 3,611	-	-	3,948	(3,960)	(4.160)	(4,200)	(4,100)
Switzerland	April	4/ 185	3/ 177	185	176	198	196	204	209	192
Italy	March	4/ 10,269	(9,356)	6/ 9,600	6/ 9,720	9/	9/	(8,200)	(7,300)	(7,000)
Germany	Dec. 1 1/	3,456	4,526	4,823	4,852	4,862	4,984	5,196	5,671	(5,000)
Austria	Dec. 3 1/	4/10/ 263	3/ 313	316	310	-	-	-	(440)	(425)
Czechoslovakia	Dec. 31 1/	518	(570)	(650)	(400)	(500)	(500)	(600)	(600)	(550)
Poland	June 30	2,600	(3,200)	-	-	(2,400)	-	(2.000)	-	-
Southeastern Europe 11/		38,918	42,000	43,029	(42,100)	(36,200)	(34,600)	(33.900)	(33.600)	(27,000)
Lithuania	Dec. 31 1/	619	634	619	638	-	-	-	-	-
Latvia	June	1,115	1,395	1.469	-	-	-	-	-	-
Estonia	June	536	619	660	-	418	10/ 376	1/ 250	1/ 258	1/ 210
Finland	September	973	1,003	1,000	869	10/ 718	10/ 677	10/ 789	10/ 965	10/ 1,015
Estimated total 5/		124,000	129,200	132,700	130,100	122,500	118,000	114,400	113,800	104,500
Soviet Union	Summer	52,960	79.680	(84,500)	(93,000)	(97,700)	(75,800)	(63,400)	-	-
Asia										
Cyprus 12/	March	290	3/ 298	301	-	-	289	265	302	-
Turkey 12/	Dec. 31 1/	11,193	16,080	17,760	18,958	18,857	18,805	17,283	18,800	(19,000)
Iraq	Spring	3/ 6,645	3/ 7,090	8,000	-	6/ 7,500	6/ 6,000	-	8,000	9,000
Palestine 12/	Spring	256	3/ 209	-	-	-	-	244	-	-
Trans-Jordan		220	216	224	265	328	200	262	273	(275)
Iran		15,003	3/ 13,813	-	-	-	13,700	-	(11,000)	(12,500)
Syria and Lebanon	Dec. 31 1/	2,316	3/ 2,327	2,129	-	-	-	6/ 2,300	(2,600)	3,150
India	Dec. 31 1/	43,412	3/ 43,777	-	49,061	-	(49,000)	-	(48,000)	(48,000)
China and dependencies 13/		3/ 24,000	(24,000)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
British Malaya 14/		228	339	338	370	-	-	-	-	-
Netherlands Indies	Dec. 31 1/	3/ 1,804	3/ 1,337	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Estimated total 5/15/		135.300	139,500	-	-	-	147,500	-	146,000	150,000

Africa										
Morocco 12/	Dec. 31 1/	7,764	9,976	10,162	10,798	11,039	13,036	13,057	12,870	(10,000)
Algeria	Mar. 1	5,312	6,270	6,406	6,296	6,150	6,546	6/ 6,500	(6,500)	(6,000)
Tunisia	Dec. 31 1/	2,967	3,026	2,316	2,687	2,748	3,287	4,678	(4,800)	(4,500)
French West Africa		5,517	3/ 5,564	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
French Sudan		3,065	3/ 3,900	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Egypt	March	16/ 1,353	3/ 1,752	-	-	-	1,241	17/ 1,424	1,424	-
Anglo-Egyptian Sudan		2,310	3/ 2,500	2,500	-	-	-	-	-	-
British Somaliland		2,500	3/ 2,900	3,000	-	-	-	-	-	-
Eritrea 14/		1,847	3/ 1,000	-	-	-	-	6/ 1,600	6/ 2,000	-
Kenya	July	3,240	3/ 3,274	-	-	-	6/ 3,220	-	-	-
British Southwest Africa		1,156	3/ 2,972	3,452	-	-	-	-	-	-
Union of South Africa	August	44,054	39,899	38,406	41,000	-	(41,000)	37,888	(37,100)	(35,000)
Basutoland		1,884	1,443	1,599	1,598	-	-	-	-	-
Tanganyika	Dec. 31 1/	2,212	1,780	1,648	1,834	-	-	-	-	-
Madagascar 12/	Dec. 31 1/	194	193	189	171	193	192	220	229	-
Estimated total 5/		99,400	100,600	-	-	-	106,400	-	102,000	92,500
South America										
Colombia	Dec. 31 1/	3/ 853	3/ 916	1,000	-	-	1,000	-	(1,000)	1,000
Ecuador		18/ 1,500	-	-	-	1,447	-	1,430	-	-
Peru		4/6/ 12,000	4/6/ 14,900	-	-	13,830	13,730	-	-	-
Bolivia	Dec. 31 1/	3/ 5,126	4/ 2,608	2,608	2,445	2,117	-	3,959	-	-
Chile	June	3/ 6,083	3/ 5,855	-	5,616	-	6,130	-	6,040	6/ 6,150
Brazil	September	3/ 11,673	3/ 11,436	10,713	10,855	10,945	-	(10,650)	(10,500)	-
Uruguay	April	3/ 17,982	4/ 17,931	-	-	6/ 18,000	6/ 22,000	20,289	(20,300)	(20,200)
Paraguay	Dec. 31 1/	191	3/ 159	-	195	-	212	-	170	-
Argentina	July	3/ 40,566	3/ 44,900	-	-	16/ 49,780	16/ 50,902	-	(52,000)	6/ 51,000
Estimated total 5/		96,700	101,000	-	-	-	112,000	-	111,000	110,000
Oceania										
Australia	Dec. 31 1/	111,417	112,571	111,058	119,305	122,694	10/ 125,189	10/ 124,615	10/ 123,174	10/(108,000)
New Zealand	April 30	28,793	31,352	31,897	31,063	31,752	31,650	33,155	33,200	34,000
Estimated total 5/		140,200	143,900				156,800	-	156,400	142,000
Estimated world total 5/		708,800	753,600	-	-	-	781,400		750,000	718,000

Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations. Compiled from official sources and publications of the International Institute of Agriculture, except figures in parentheses, which are office estimates.

1/ End of year estimates (October to December) included under following year for comparisons and totals. Thus for Canada the December 1, 1938 estimate of 2,672,000 is shown under 1939. 2/ Preliminary. 3/ Average for 2 years to 4 years only 4/ Census or estimate for single year. 5/ Totals include estimates for countries for which official statistics are unavailable. 6/ Unofficial. 7/ Official wartime statistics not strictly comparable with estimates for earlier years. 8/ Continental Portugal, Madeira, and the Azores. 9/ Census of June 30, 1941 and July 20, 1942 reported 9,829,000 and 9,422,000 sheep, respectively, but are not comparable with March estimates for other years. 10/ March. 11/ Total within pre-war boundaries of Hungary, Yugoslavia, Greece, Albania, Bulgaria and Rumania. 12/ Data include only number taxed. 13/ Free and occupied China, including Turkestan, Manchuria, and Inner Mongolia. 14/ Data include goats. 15/ Includes estimate for Outer Mongolia, which has become available recently. 16/ September. 17/ June. 18/ 1929.

Since 1942, when world numbers reached a wartime peak, there has been a decline of 63 million sheep. The estimated percentage decrease by continents between 1942 and 1945 is as follows: North America 13 percent; Europe, (excluding the Soviet Union) 11 percent; Soviet Union 18 percent; Africa 13 percent; South America 2 percent; and Oceania 9 percent. Numbers increased in Asia by 2 percent. As compared with the 5-year (1936-1940) average, numbers are definitely lower in North America, Europe, Oceania, and Africa, but somewhat larger in South America and Asia.

NORTH AMERICA: Sheep numbers in the United States, the most important sheep raising country in North America, reached an all-time high level of 57 million head as of January 1, 1942. There has been a sharp falling-off since then, however, to 48 million head as of January 1 of this year, which is the smallest number reported since 1928.

The 7-percent drop in numbers during 1944 was the largest in any year of this century. A smaller increase above prewar in prices of wool and lambs in comparison with the increase in farm prices in general, relatively high costs of production, and the shortage of competent sheep herders appear to have been the principal factors in the sharp decline in sheep numbers since 1942. An indicated decrease of 3 percent in the lamb crop for 1945, as compared with 1944, points to a further decrease in sheep and lamb numbers as of January 1, 1946.

This downward trend is not likely to be affected until after the first of next year by the recent modification in the federal price support program. The subsidy of 95 cents per 100 pounds to authorized slaughterers was increased to a range of from $1.00 to $3.15 per 100 pounds and became payable after August 5 directly to the sellers of sheep and lambs.

Canada, during the war, has increased sheep numbers to 218 million head at the beginning of 1945. The upward trend has apparently been continuous since 1941, as indicated by the June estimates which have been adjusted to the 1941 census. The unrevised December estimates show a sharp drop in 1941, whereas the June figures indicate numbers about the same as in 1940.

Various measures were adopted by the Canadian Government to stimulate sheep and wool production, including a wool price subsidy of 4 cents a pounds on all clean grades of wool and subsidy grants (in 1942) for the purchase and transportation of breeding stock to farmers wishing to go into sheep raising or to expand operations. Subsidies for purchase and transportation of breeding stock have now been dropped.

The number of sheep in Mexico at the time of the last census in 1940 was 4,401,000, a decrease of 8 percent from the average for the years

1936-1940. Some wartime expansion has occurred which is expected to continue into the postwar period. In two measures, the Mexican Government recently sought to encourage sheep and wool producers. Effective July 20, the import duty on wool was raised substantially, Imports of wool were placed under control in April 1944. The United States, Canada, and Mexico are the only sheep raising countries of any importance in North America and combined have about 99 percent of the total number of sheep on the North American Continent.

EUROPE: An accurate evaluation of the results of World War II upon the sheep population of Europe will probably not be possible until some years after the war. Official wartime estimates have been received from a few of the most important countries.

The United Kingdom's recent estimates covering the war period show that sheep numbers suffered a material reduction, with the number reported in June 1944 at only 20,108,000 head, or 25 percent below the 1939 figure. The decline was mainly the result of plowing up grassland for the purpose of growing food and feed crops. Increased production of feed grains, root crops, and beans and peas (for feed) was necessary in order to feed even the greatly reduced numbers of livestock from domestic sources. Shipping space had to be reserved for imports of food and materials necessary for the prosecution of the war. A slight increase in sheep numbers was indicated in 1945. The United Kingdom has more sheep than any other country in Europe, with the exception of the Soviet Union.

Sheep numbers on the European Continent as a whole declined during the war. The greatest reduction apparently took place during 1944-1945 when fighting on the Continent was general. Numbers in 1945 in continental Europe are estimated at 80 million head, a reduction of 11 percent compared with 1944, and a decrease of 19 percent from the 1936-1940 average when the sheep population was unusually large. Axis-dominated countries of northwestern Europe, as well as neutral countries, increased sheep numbers somewhat up to 1944, principally because of the need for wool. Any increase which occurred in northwestern Europe, however, was outweighed by important decreases in southeastern Europe. The drain on these surplus meat producing countries to supply the demands of occupying forces for cattle, hogs, and fats resulted in increased slaughter of sheep and lambs to supply the peasant population.

The long-time downward trend in sheep numbers in France has continued throughout the war period. At the beginning of 1945, the number of sheep was officially estimated at 6,316,000, a decrease of 6 percent compared with 1944. Numbers are now about 35 percent smaller than the 5-year (1936-1940) average.

For obvious reasons wartime agricultural returns by farmers in Axis-occupied countries may not present an accurate picture of conditions, and returns are believed, by expert observers, to be somewhat underestimated.

An increase in sheep numbers in Germany was encouraged by the Government even before the war, in an effort to make that country more self-sufficient in wool. Normally Germany imports about 90 percent of consumption requirements of wool. The sheep industry received further government aid during the war, and as a consequence numbers continued to show an upward trend up to 1944.

France is the most important wool consuming country of continental Europe and Germany is second. Both countries are dependent on imports for a large share of consumption requirements. Per capita consumption of mutton and lamb in these countries is small relative to that of beef and pork. Germany was practically self-sufficient in mutton and lamb before the war, but France imported live sheep from Northern Africa, principally Algeria, in order to supplement the domestic supply.

Spain has more sheep than any other country in continental Europe, exclusive of the Soviet Union. Numbers decreased during the Civil War but increased substantially thereafter to reach an estimated total of 24 million in 1941. Since then there has been a decrease to approximately 22 million head in 1945. Numbers are still considerably larger than the average for the years 1931-1935 and 1936-1940, but estimates made before and after the Civil War may not be strictly comparable because of different methods employed in arriving at conclusions. An increase in sheep numbers above prewar is also shown in Portugal and in Switzerland.

In Italy numbers increased somewhat in the early years of the war but have shown a decrease since 1941. The estimated number in 1945 is 25 percent smaller than the average for the years 1936-1940. Sheep numbers are relatively unimportant in the Scandinavian countries, the Netherlands, and Belgium.

Of the countries of southeastern Europe, Rumania (former boundaries) had the largest number, or about 12 million head before the war. Boundary changes during and since the war make it impossible to show comparable estimates for the individual countries for a series of years, so a combined total for these 8 countries of southeastern Europe has been given. Sheep numbers in Rumania, exclusive of parts of Transylvania, Southern Dobrudja, Bessarabia and northern Bukovina, show a reduction from 8,754,000 in 1939 to about 6 million at the present time. The highest quality sheep have been taken by retiring forces. Recently, the peasant population has been slaughtering and consuming more than normal numbers of sheep and lambs, while meat is practically unavailable except to the wealthy urban population through the black market.

The long-time trend in sheep numbers in Yugoslavia was upward prior to the war, with numbers reaching 10 million head in 1939. Sheep numbers have now been reduced by about half of the prewar total, according to available estimates. Slaughter of all types of livestock will be discouraged by the Government in order to build up flocks and herds. The greatest reduction has occurred in Bosnia. Servia is considerably better off, and the Government has been buying sheep in this area as well as in Macedonia for distributing to the deficit areas of Bosnia. Livestock was produced in comparatively greater numbers in Croatia, but there was doubtless some reduction during the German occupation.

In Bulgaria an official periodical states that sheep numbers have decreased by 30 percent compared with 1940. That year the number was estimated at slightly more than 8 million head. Shortages of fodder and feed grain are the most serious problems confronting this country. Livestock is reported to be underfed and is being slaughtered prematurely because of lack of feed. Prospects are not bright for any substantial increase in numbers in the near future.

Hungary had 1,629,000 sheep and lambs in the spring of 1938. Recently published figures indicate that numbers were reduced to about 1/7 of that number as of May 1945. War losses are estimated at over 1 million head. Restrictions have been placed on the slaughter of all livestock in order to hasten breeding. The army of occupation and reparations have taken large numbers of livestock. Further losses have occurred due to the breaking up of large estates and the herding of animals over large distances.

Sheep numbers in Greece as of June 1945 were estimated at 5,520,000 head. Comparable estimates for other recent years are not available, but the average beginning-of-year estimate for the 5 years 1936-1940 was 8.2 million head.

ASIA: Asia has a large number of sheep of the unimproved type which produce mainly carpet wool. India and China alone have about 60 percent of the total number in Asia. Estimates for both of these countries are very incomplete, but the number in India in 1945 is believed to be roughly about 48 million, and the number in China, including an estimate for Outer Mongolia, around 40 million. The last official estimate available for India in 1940 showed 49 million head, and a slight decrease is indicated since then, because of the large Allied forces stationed there resulting in the increased demand for meat.

Sheep numbers in Free China decreased materially during the war, but these provinces supported only a little over 1/3 of the prewar number for all China, including an estimate of 16 million head for Outer Mongolia. The increase in numbers in the occupied areas and in the outlying dependencies during the war is believed to have offset the decrease in the Free China Provinces. Sheep numbers in Turkey increased somewhat from the prewar level. This trend continued into 1945.

AFRICA: The principal sheep raising parts of Africa are in British South Africa, and in French North Africa. These are the principal wool producing zones, with approximately 60 percent of the total number of sheep in Africa concentrated in these areas. The Union of South Africa alone possesses almost half the sheep numbers in Africa. Sheep numbers in that country, however, have declined since the mid-war years. Numbers fell during the war from 41 million in August 1940 to 37.9 million in August 1943. A meat scarcity resulting in high prices for slaughter sheep and lambs led farmers to dispose of some of their breeding stock. By 1944 numbers are estimated to have declined to about 37 million head. Drought in late 1944 and early 1945 are expected to cause a still further decline as of August 1945.

The 1944-45 drought in North Africa adversely affected sheep in that area, and decreases are indicated for 1945.

SOUTH AMERICA: Sheep numbers expanded in the principal sheep producing areas of the South America Continent during the war, and numbers now are larger than the prewar level. In Argentina sheep numbers had increased to 50.9 million head by September 1942, which was 6 million head above the average for the years 1936-1940. Numbers remained at a high level until 1944, but the drought of 1944-45 probably resulted in a slight decrease in 1945.

Sheep numbers in Uruguay apparently reached the highest war time level in early 1942 when numbers were estimated to have been 22 million head. The drought of 1942-43 which was of great severity in Uruguay caused a loss of 1.7 million head, as indicated by the official census of 1943. Since then there has been a slight further decrease, but numbers are still large compared with prewar. Sheep have also increased in Chile and are larger than the average for the years 1936-1940. Numbers in 1945 are estimated at a little over 6 million head, compared with 5.6 million in 1940.

OCEANIA: Sheep numbers in Australia, the world's most important sheep raising country, reached an all time high level of 125 million head in March 1942. Numbers had declined by 2 percent to 123 million by March 1944 but were still 9 percent above the 5-year (1936-1940) average. In the 12 or 15 months following March 1944, serious drought in the important sheep raising States caused a further drop to around 108 million head by March 1945, the smallest number in 15 years. Further losses in the months March to June brought the number down to about 105 million by June 1945.

Official estimates for 4 States, New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, and Tasmania show a decrease of 17 percent between March 1944 and March 1945. An increase probably occurred in Western Australia and in some of the other States less damaged by the drought. In New South Wales, which had 46 percent of the sheep in Australia in 1944, the decrease in numbers was 18 percent.

Death losses in that State during the 12 months ended March 1945 are officially estimated at 11.4 million head. Approximately 7.4 million head out of the 11.4 million are attributed to the drought, while the other 4 million are normal seasonal losses. The drought was broken by wide-spread rain in June and July. Pastoral conditions greatly improved, but rain was still needed in many areas. As the break occurred so late in the year it seems doubtful that there will be any substantial recovery in numbers by March 1946.

Sheep numbers in New Zealand reached a record level of 33.2 million head in April 1944 and a year later are believed to have increased to a higher level. Numbers have been increasing since 1940 and are now 7 percent larger than the total on that date and 6 percent larger than the average for the 5 years 1936-1940.

1/ This is one of a series of regularly scheduled reports on world agricultural prospects approved by the OFAR Committee on Foreign Crop and Livestock Statistics. For this report the Committee was composed of Joseph A. Becker, chairman, C. M. Purves, A. T. Thompson, Esther H. Johnson, F. S. Straus and Oscar K. Moore.

COMMODITY DEVELOPMENTS

GRAINS, GRAIN PRODUCTS, AND FEEDS

BRAZIL SUSPENDS WHEAT IMPORT DUTIES

Brazil has suspended customs duties and other taxes on imported wheat, according to the terms of a decree effective August 13. Imports of wheat in 1943, the last year for which complete data are available, were reported at 38.3 million bushels of wheat and the equivalent of 1.2 million bushels of wheat as flour. The stated purpose of the measure is to prevent increased prices to consumers. In turn, some reductions in flour prices are also provided for, in order to pass along the benefits of the duty suspension. The import duty on wheat had been approximately 9 cents per bushel, at the current rate of exchange.

ECUADORAN RICE OUTPUT SMALLER THAN 1944 RECORD CROP

In a tentative forecast of the 1945 Ecuadoran rice crop, total production is estimated at 4.8 million bushels (140 million pounds milled), an outturn somewhat larger than originally expected, but 20 percent smaller than the record harvest of 6,075,000 bushels (180 million pounds) in 1944. The first crop is officially estimated at 3.8 million bushels (110 million pounds), and trade forecasts for the second crop average about 1 million bushels (30 million pounds).

During the first half of 1945, rice exports dropped to 23 million pounds, compared with 63 million in the same period in 1944. The 1945 decline in exports was the result of a reduced stockpile at the beginning of 1945, in contrast with exports from a large carry-over the year before. An executive decree of July 25, 1945, authorized the export of 24 million pounds; 20 million to Cuba, in compliance with the rice-sugar exchange agreement of February 1945, and 4 million to Costa Rica. Rice stocks in mills as of August 1 were reported at 85 million pounds, with most of the first crop delivered to mills. About 35 million pounds will be required for domestic consumption from August through December.

ECUADOR: Rice Exports, by country, January-June 1945, with comparisons

Country	Average 1939-1941	1942	1943	1944	January-June 1944	January-June 1945
	Million Pounds	Million Pounds	Million Pounds	Million Pounds	Million Pounds	Million Pounds
Cuba	3	28	81	88	40	21
Peru	9	8	20	29	19	0
Venezuela	10	20	0	17	2	1
Colombia	6	0	a/	0	0	a/
Panama	3	23	a/	2	1	0
Others	5	6	4	6	1	1
Total	36	85	105	142	63	23

Compiled from official sources.
a/ Less than 500,000 pounds.

The rice outturn of the second-crop, harvested from October to December, may be increased substantially above last year, and prospects are favorable for an expansion in acreage next year. Optimistic reports in the press indicating that Government controls of prices and distribution will soon be relaxed have resulted in renewed interest of rice growers, who again appear willing to invest money in larger plantings. The Department of Agriculture has also announced that it intends to aid the mechanization of rice production in order to increase the acreage.

TRANSPORTATION SHORTAGE RESTRICTS BRAZILIAN RICE SHIPMENTS

Lack of transportation is now limiting delivery of a large rice surplus in central Brazil to outlets along the coast for shipment to other parts of Brazil and for export. The rice surplus in Goiaz, an inland State, was recently reported at 160 million pounds milled, or 25 percent larger than last year. This State produced rice about equal to its own consumption before the war, or from 4 to 7 million bushels (120-200 million pounds milled). In order to relieve the tight transportation situation, some gasoline has been provided for use in trucks in order to haul rice to railroad centers before the October rainy season begins. Railway transportation out of Goiaz, however, is limited and shipments must cross either the States of Sao Paulo or Minas Geraes, both of which have produced exceptionally large rice crops this year and are confronted with the same transportation problems.

FATS AND OILS

BAHIA CASTOR BEAN CROP LACKS ADEQUATE TRANSPORT

Exporters are of the opinion that if lack of railway transportation continues as at present, the new castor bean crop in the State of Bahia, Brazil, forecast at 50,000 short tons, compared with the revised estimate of 46,000 tons in 1944, may not be moved from the interior to the Port of Bahia. If this situation improves, the total 1945 production should be available for export since present stocks of castor beans are sufficient to meet crushing requirements.

Bahia's total production of castor oil in 1945 will exceed the 520 tons produced in 1944, in order to meet the sales of this product to Canada. During the first 6 months of the current year, 175 tons were shipped to that country and 75 tons were awaiting shipment in August. An additional 140 tons will be exported in September or October. There were no exports of castor oil to the United States during this period.

COTTON AND OTHER FIBERS

VENEZUELAN COTTON CROP UNCHANGED

The 1944-45 cotton crop in Venezuela, picked during November to March, is reported to be about equal to the previous year's small crop of 16,000 bales (of 478 pounds net). The scarcity and higher prices of corn have caused some shift of cotton land to corn cultivation in recent years.

Annual requirements of domestic cotton mills range from 25,000 to 28,000 bales. The Government made a special arrangement with textile manufacturers as in other recent years whereby the duty on imported cotton was reduced from 2 Bolivares per kilogram (27.2 cents per pound) to .4 Bolivar (5.4 cents). In return the manufacturers agreed to maintain the fixed price of 100 Bolivares per quintal of 46 kilograms (29.6 cents per pound) for domestic cotton. The 13,500 bales imported in 1943 was all obtained from Argentina. Imports in 1944 consisted of about 2,300 bales from Peru.

WEEKLY COTTON PRICES ON FOREIGN MARKETS

The following table shows certain cotton price quotations on foreign markets, converted at current rates of exchange.

COTTON: Price of certain foreign growths and qualities in specified markets

Market location, kind and quality	Date 1945	Unit of weight	Unit of currency	Price in foreign currency	Equivalent U.S. cents per pound
Alexandria (spot)		Kantar			
Ashmouni, F.G.F.	8-30	99.05 lbs.	Tallaris	35.25	29.37
Giza 7, F.G.F.	8-30	99.05 lbs.	Tallaris	Not quoted	
Karnak, F.G.F.	8-30	99.05 lbs.	Tallaris	39.00	32.50
Bombay (Sept '45 futures)		Candy			
Jarila	8-31	784 lbs.	Rupee	350.50	13.47
Bombay (spot)		Candy			
Kampala, East African	8-31	784 lbs.	Rupee	850.00	32.66
Buenos Aires (spot)		Metric ton			
Type B	9-1	2204.6 lbs.	Peso	1300.00	17.56
Lima (spot)		Sp. Quintal			
Tanguis, Type 5	9-1	101.4 lbs.	Sol	105.00	15.93
Recife (spot)		Arroba			
Mata, Type 5	8-31	33.07 lbs.	Cruzeiro	86.00	14.16
Sertão, Type 5	8-31	33.07 lbs.	Cruzeiro	83.00	13.66
Sao Paulo (spot)		Arroba			
Sao Paulo, Type 5	8-31	33.07 lbs.	Cruzeiro	88.50	14.57
Torreon (spot)		Sp. Quintal			
Middling, 15/16"	9-1	101.4 lbs.	Peso	86.25	17.50

Compiled from weekly cables from representatives abroad.

* * * * * * *

INDIAN JUTE ACREAGE INCREASES

The preliminary estimate of the 1945 jute acreage in India is 2,935,900 acres or nearly 43 percent larger than the actual 1944 acreage of 2,059,600 acres. The principal increases are in Bengal and Assam, where the percentages of increase were 50 and 22, respectively. A total of 5.4 million acres of jute land is registered in Bengal under the Jute Regulations Act of that Province, but the planted area has averaged not quite half that amount since the general reduction program became effective in 1941. The largest acreage before that time was 5,669,000 in 1940 and the second largest was 3,492,000 in 1930.

INDIA: Acreage and production of jute, by Provinces and States, 1944 and 1945

Provinces and States	Area 1944	Area 1945	Production 1944	Production 1945
	Acres	Acres	1,000 lbs.	1,000 lbs.
British Provinces				
Bengal a/	1,694,400	2,546,900	1,958,270	b/2,950,000
Assam	148,900	181,600	100,120	
Bihar	162,900	161,800	c/ 97,880	
Orissa	23,900	14,300	19,590	
Indian States				
Cooch Behar	19,500	21,300	13,630	
Tripura	10,000	10,000	8,000	
Total	2,059,600	2,935,900	2,197,490	

Compiled from official sources except as noted.

a/ Area licensed for jute.

b/ Unofficial estimate based on average yield obtained per acre in 1944.

c/ Includes jute from Nepal, which normally averages from 16 to 30 million pounds per year.

An area of 438,180 acres of licensed land in Bengal was examined prior to the July forecast with the result that jute was found to be actually growing on 362,025 acres or about 82.6 percent of the total area examined. Late plantings in some districts seem to account for the smallest percentages of crop found on various licensed areas.

The Bengal crop of the past year averaged close to 1,160 pounds to the acre. If the same yield can be realized from this year's plantings, a crop of 2,950 million pounds could be obtained. Satisfactory weather conditions were reported until late in July. Unofficial sources have indicated that a good crop may be expected if the weather continues to be

TOBACCO

EUROPE RESUMES TOBACCO PURCHASES FROM DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

European markets have reopended as outlets for tobacco produced in the Dominican Republic. Recent purchases by such countries as France and the Netherlands, which in prewar years were important buyers of Dominican tobacco, have been substantial, although the most important markets during the first 6 months of 1945 were Spanish Morocco and Algeria. Exports of tobacco from the Republic amounted to 5.6 million pounds during the period January-June 1945. Exports during the prewar years 1935-1939 averaged 13.7 million pounds, chiefly destined to European countries.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC: Exports of leaf tobacco to specified countries, averaged 1935-1939, annual 1943-1944, January-June 1945

Country	Average 1935-39	1943	1944	January-June 1945
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds
Germany	3,113	0	0	0
Algeria	1,128	0	0	1,154
Belgium	1,151	0	0	0
France	2,445	0	0	331
Netherlands	4,535	0	0	441
Switzerland	a/	164	1,224	408
Spain	603	11,268	322	18
Spanish Morocco	a/	4,511	0	1,939
Others	685	503	648	b/1,264
Total	13,660	16,446	2,194	5,555

From official sources and consular reports.
a/ If any, included with "others."
b/ Principally to the United States for probable re-export.

The 1944-45 tobacco crop in the Republic totaled about 30 million pounds, according to latest consular information, compared with the 1943-44 harvest of 7-8 million pounds. Prices paid to growers during July 1945 reached a high of 13.8 cents per pound, but in recent weeks have declined to an average of about 12 cents, compared with an average of 5 to 6 cents received for the 1942-43 crop. The continued heavy demand for export is the principal factor resulting in favorable prices.

* * * * * * *

FRUITS, VEGETABLES, AND NUTS

MEXICAN PINEAPPLE PRODUCTION INCREASES

The estimated production of pineapples in Isla, Veracruz, and Loma Bonita, Oaxaca, for the 1946 and 1947 season probably will surpass the record 1945 crop of 1,134,000 crates of 70 pounds. Besides the 1,134,000 crates normally produced in these 2 areas, around 157,000 crates were harvested in the vicinity of Mogoncy, Oaxaca, making a total of 1,291,000 crates, or about half Mexico's total production of 2,405,000 crates.

Acreage in Isla and Loma Bonita is about equal and has increased from 1,400 acres in 1944 to 2,000 acres in 1945. The 1946 area is forecast at 2,500 acres. Approximately 2 years are required to mature a crop of pineapples, so the plantings for the 1946 crop are completed. Plantings for 1947 will soon be started and may surpass the 1946 crop by 500 acres.

MISCELLANEOUS: REGIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

CANADA RESTRICTS FOOD CONSUMPTION TO FEED BRITAIN AND LIBERATED AREAS

In view of increasing food needs in Europe and prospects of reduced domestic production, Canada has resumed meat rationing, effective September 10. The sole purpose for this action, according to the official announcement, is to make available more meat for export to liberated countries and Great Britain. In addition to rationing, Canada has 2 meatless days each week and requisitions for export all slaughterings of grade A and a large part of B1 hogs in inspected plants.

Pork production in Canada as well as in the United States has declined during the present year. Canada's hog slaughterings in 1945 in inspected plants may not be more than 6 or 6 1/2 million head, as compared with 8 3/4 million head in 1944. Canada still expects to ship overseas this year some 450 million pounds of bacon and ham and over 250 million pounds of beef, in carcass or canned form. If rationing is effective in reducing civilian meat consumption during the latter part of the year, the amount available for export will, of course, be correspondingly increased.

In addition to meat, Canada is expecting to supply significant quantities of dairy products, poultry products, and grain. Among dairy products, Canada will probably export over 12.5 million pounds of cheese, a very large proportion of her total cheese production and important quantities of canned and dried milk.

The Canadian egg production industry, which has expanded one-third above prewar, may be expected to supply 90 million dozen eggs for shipment to the United Kingdom during the calendar year of 1945. This is 10 million dozen more than was shipped in 1944. Movements of dressed poultry from Canada to the United States have increased materially during 1945, reaching 10 million pounds during the first 8 months of the current calendar year.

Smaller acreages planted, unfavorable weather conditions, and the reduced carry-over indicate that Canadian grain supplies in 1945-46 will be decidedly less than those of last year. The 1945 Canadian wheat acreage is slightly larger than that of 1944, but production will be down as a result of drought in some of the Prairie Provinces. A crop of 321.4 million bushels is estimated for this year, by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, as compared with 436 million bushels in 1944, and an average of 349 million for 1930-1934, and 312 million for 1935-1939.

The carry-over of Canadian wheat (in Canada) July 31, 1945, was 238 million bushels. Though 100 million bushels less than the 1944 carry-over, this supply will serve as an important reserve from which Canada expects to draw for export during the year 1945-46. Preliminary figures indicate that a total of over 350 million bushels of wheat, and flour in terms of wheat, were exported during the crop year 1944-45. Obviously, in order to supply a similar amount during the year 1945-46,Canada will have to draw heavily upon reserves.

Production of oats, on the basis of September 12 estimates, is expected to be about 110 million bushels less than a year ago, and barley more than 30 million bushels smaller. The area devoted to rye is almost 25 percent less and of corn 20 percent less than last year. The acreage of flax for seed is about 25 percent less than 1944, and 65 percent smaller than the peak of 2.9 million acres in 1943. There are no official figures available on the acreage of soybeans actually seeded this year, but the area planted is expected to be less than that of 1944.